

Beaufort S.C. Oct 29th 1862

My Darling Emmy.

I have just received your letter dated 20th inst. The one dated the 13th arrived on Monday. I should have answered that immediately, but I knew there was another steamer in sight at Hilton Head, so I thought it best to wait for that and answer them both at the same time. I am very glad to hear from you so often. If you knew how much pleasure it gives me to get a letter from you, you would not mind the trouble of writing.

It is quite late now, and I have just got ^m my work done, but I could not go to bed without saying a few words to my precious wife. It is a very poor substitute for the good-night-kiss that I always had at home, but it is the best that I can hope for, for some time to come. I am very glad to see that you write in a more cheerful way than you did a while ago. It was the hardest thing to bear, that I found in the hard life of a soldier, to feel that the one that I loved the best of all, was made very unhappy by my absence. You must try and keep up good courage, and believe as I do, that it is only a question of time, that sooner or later, we shall cer-

Transcription:

Beaufort S.C. Oct 29th 1862

My Darling Emmy,

I have just received your letter

date 20th inst. The one dated the 13th arrived on Monday

I should have answered that immediately. but I knew

there was another steamer in sight at Hilton Head, so I

thought it best to wait for that and answer them both

at the same time. I am very glad to hear from you so

often. If you knew how much pleasure it gives me to get

a letter from you, you would not mind the trouble of writing

It is quite late now, and I have just got ^{my} work

done, but I could not go to bed without saying a few words

to my precious wife. It is a very poor substitute for the

good-night kiss that I always had at home, but, it is the best

that I can hope for, for some time to come. I am very glad

to see that you write in a more cheerfull way than you did

a while ago. It was the hadest thing to bear, that I found in the

hard life of a soldier, to feel that the one that I loved the best

of all, was made very unhappy by my absence. You must

try and keep up good courage, and beleive as I do, that it

only a question of time, that sooner or later, we shall cer-

tainly meet, and, be happier than we ever have been. It is true that I have been away longer than I expected when I left, but I should have gone just as quick, if I had known that I should have been away three years. I know that I could not come home now, and be contented to stay, there idle while our country is in danger, and I believe that you would not love me so well if I could. I think you would feel a sort of contempt for a man who would not do what he could, for the best country & the best Government that the world ever saw, when it was in the most imminent danger. The Government has protected me, and mine, in the time of her prosperity, and I would lay down my life if it need be so, to defend her, in the time of peril.

Would not you do the same, my darling? and would you wish me to do any less? But I will not write any more on that subject. I know my darling loves our dear country, but it may be that she loves her unworthy husband better. Well if it should be so I will not complain, for it is my gain, only be patient till I come back, and if my love will repay you, you shall have your reward. I have not written you much about the battle we had last week, for I suppose you will read all the particulars in the papers, given in better style than I could do it. I understand that an artist for some of the illustrated papers was on the ground, and has made a picture of our Regt charging on the rebel batteries. Some of our officers have seen it, and

Transcription:

tainly meet and be happier than we ever have been It is true that I have been away longer than I expected when I left, but I should have gone just as quick./ if I had known that I should have been away three years. I know that I could not come home now, and be contented to stay there idle while our country is in danger, and I beleive that you would not love me so well if I could. I think you would feel a sort of contempt for a man who would not do what he could, for the best country & the best Government that the world ever saw, when it was in the most imminent danger. The Government has protected, me, and mine, in the time of her prosperity, and I would lay down my life if it need be so, to defend her, in the time of peril.

Would not you do the same, my darling? And would you wish me to do any less.? But I will not write any more on that subje^{ct} I know my darling loves our dear count^{ry}, but it may be that she loves her unworthy husband better. Well if it should be so I will not complain, for it is my gain, only be patient till I come back. and if my love will repay you. you shall have your reward. I have not writen you much about the battle we had last week, for I suppose you will read all the particulars in the papers, give in better style than I could do it: I understand that an artist for some of the illustrated papers was on the ground, and has made a picture of our Reg^t charging on the rebel batteries. Some of our officers have seen it, and

say that it is a very good illustration of the affair. It will probably be published soon. if you can get it, you may get some idea of the affair. But it is late and I must stop now. The mail does not go till the day after tomorrow, so I shall find time to write you some more before it goes.

I feel just like writing to night, and I have a great deal that I wish to say, but I will try and keep it till another time. So now good night, darling. You are sound asleep now I suppose. Well pleasant dreams to you. Goodnight

Thursday Oct 30th I will now try and finish my letter, though, I have lost the run of all I wished to say last night. The Dr has just gone from here, to take the boat for Milton Head. He is to start for home tomorrow, this letter will be likely to go by the same boat, so you may see him before this reaches you. There are several other officers, who are going by the same boat. Lieut^{Col} Cole, of whom I have ~~of~~ written, several times leaves at this time. He says he shall visit the Dr at Hampstead, and will certainly call upon you. I think he will do so. You need not feel afraid of him, for he is a very good man and I know you will like him. He has been a good friend to me, from the first. He is old enough to be your father. Several others have promised to call on you. Perhaps some of them

Transcription:

say that it is a very good illustration of the affair. It will probably be published soon, if you can get it, you may get some idea of the affair But it is late and I must stop now. The mail does not go till the day after tomorrow, so I shall find time to write you some more before it goes. I feel just like writing to night, and I have a great deal that I wish to say, but I will try and keep it till another time. So now goodnight, darling. You are sound asleep now I suppose. Well pleasant dreams to you. Leander

Thursday Oct 30" I will now try and finish my letter, though, I have lost the run of all I wished to say last night. The Dr has just gone from here. to take the boat for Hilton Head. He is to start for home tomorrow, this letter will be likely to go by the same boat, so you may see him before this reaches you. There are several other officers, who are going by the same boat. Leiu^t Cole, of whom I have ~~sep~~ written, several times leaves at this time. He says he shall visit the Dr at Hampstead, and will certainly call upon you. I think he will do so. You need not feel afraid of him. for he is a very good man and I know you will like him. He has been a good friend to me, from the first. He is old enough to be your father. Several others have promised to call on you. Perhaps some of them

Transcription:

may do so. You ask me what I think of the Presidents proclamation: I must confess that I have not had an opportunity of getting information enough, on the state of the country, to be able to form an opinion I hope everything will be done for the best, but if it is not, I cannot help it. I am willing to all that is in my power and wish every one else would do the same. I do not know what I am writing about, as there are about a dozen talking to me, so I guess I will quit for a while. 10 o'clock P.M. The mail goes in the morning, so I must close this up. I do not feel in the mode for writing to night, but will write again very soon Give my best to Nelson & Lewis, and their families. Did you get my letter, in which I told you to ask them to name the baby Emily? You have never told me what they do call her. I wish they would all write to me, but I should have time to answer them if they did. By the way, I have not told you that our good little widow is sick. She is quite sick with the fever, and has been sick several days. We have got a mullatto girl to stay with her. But we all do everything that we can for her. Well dearest I have got nearly to the end of my sheet, so I must stop. When any one tells you that your husband dont love his good little wife very much dont you beleive a word of it You know that you are the dearest object of my life, and always will be. As ever, truly yours Leander

[written along the left side of the letter]
31st P.S. Gen Mitchell died last night